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The Rural District Council of Hexham

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

For the Year 1951.

J. H. MAUGHAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Hexham :—

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

During the year 285 live births and 292 deaths, including 8 children under one year of age, have occurred in the area. These figures give a live birth rate of 13.86 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a general death rate of 14.20 per 1,000 of the estimated population and an infant mortality rate of 28.07 per 1,000 live births. Compared with last year these figures show a fall in the birth rate and a rise in the death rate, and for the first time since 1941 the death rate exceeds the birth rate. With regard to the infant mortality rate, this has dropped slightly compared with last year.

It is of interest to note that of the 292 deaths, 60% were of persons over 70 years of age and 70% were due to malignant neoplasms or diseases of the circulatory system. Of the 8 infant deaths, 3 were due to chest conditions and 4 were due to the hazards of birth.

During the year 334 cases of notifiable diseases were notified and outstanding among them were 220 cases of measles and 1 case of acute poliomyelitis. The places where most of the cases of measles occurred were Ovingham, Stocksfield, Barrasford, Corbridge and Gunnerton and the case of acute poliomyelitis occurred in Wylam. 14 new cases of tuberculosis were notifed during the year compared with 17 cases last year.

It will be noted that during the last three years no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the district. This is undoubtedly due to the success of immunisation of children against diphtheria, but it must never be forgotten that the absence of the disease does not mean its absolute elimination. Freedom from the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtherial outbreaks, of the possibility of which there was a sharp reminder on Tyneside towards the end of the year.

With regard to sanitary circumstances, general improvements continued throughout the year.

The Ministry of Local Government and Planning approved in

principle the Council's proposals for the supply of water in the district and a summary of the position at the end of the year is contained in the report.

To maintain the water supply at Acomb during the summer months, water was again supplied by means of a 750 gallon tanker.

Water samples continued to be taken from the Council supplies and drip chlorinators were installed where necessary. Water samples were also taken from both existing and proposed private supplies.

During the year work continued on privy conversion schemes and the Council's scavenging service continued as for last year.

In concluding this report, may I record my thanks to the staff for their ready response to all public health matters with which the department has dealt and also may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the interest they have shown and for their unfailing support during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. H. MAUGHAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

PART I.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	196,030
Estimated Population, 1951	20,560

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Live Births—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	143	132	275
Illegitimate	6	4	10
Still Births—			
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	13.86
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	14.06

DEATHS.

Deaths from puerperal causes—	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	Nil
Death Rates of Infants under one year of age—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	28.07
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.09
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms (all ages)	33
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and all ages)	14.20

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups in each Sub-District, and also as to their certification :—

Age Group	Allendale				Bywell				Hexham				Totals.	
	Certified		Uncertified		Certified		Uncertified		Certified		Uncertified			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	4	4
1—2 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
2—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
25—45 ..	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	4	3
45—50 ..	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	4	5
50—55 ..	1	2	1	—	3	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	8	5
55—60 ..	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	4	1	—	10	5
60—65 ..	4	—	—	—	4	4	1	—	2	8	—	—	11	12
65—70 ..	4	6	1	—	6	6	1	—	6	5	1	3	19	20
70—75 ..	11	5	—	—	8	6	—	1	13	7	—	—	32	19
75—80 ..	6	3	1	—	8	8	—	1	12	6	1	—	28	18
80—85 ..	5	4	—	—	7	7	—	—	9	11	—	—	21	22
85—90 ..	2	2	—	—	8	6	—	—	4	7	—	—	14	15
90—95 ..	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	4	3
95—100 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	37	24	4	—	53	44	4	4	60	55	3	4	161	131
									Total ..				292	

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	Causes of Death	Allendale		Bywell		Hexham		Total	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	—	4	—	—	2	5	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	2	1	5	3	1	6	8	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	5	9	12	11	8	29	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	13	3	8	3	15	7	36	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3	3	2	6	7	10
20.	Other heart disease ..	4	4	10	8	7	8	21	20
21.	Other circulatory disease	—	2	—	5	4	2	4	9
22.	Influenza	—	—	1	2	2	5	3	7
23.	Pneumonia	2	—	1	2	2	2	5	4
24.	Bronchitis	1	1	3	1	1	1	5	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	—	1	2	1	2	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	1	—	1	—	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	1	1	3	2	9	8	13	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	2	1	1	—	3	1
34.	All other accidents ..	2	1	1	3	1	—	4	4
35.	Suicide	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		41	24	57	48	63	59	161	131
					Total ..			292	

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1951

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diptheria and Croup ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infant Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
All causes — Certified.	3	1	—	—	4	—	2	—	1	7
All causes — Uncertified	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
GRAND TOTALS ..	4	1	—	—	5	—	2	—	1	8

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1951.

	Rate per 1,000 total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and paratyphoid Fevers.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Smallpox	Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	Pneumonia	All causes under 1 year of age	Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age
England and Wales..	15.5	0.36	12.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.61	29.6	1.4
126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	17.3	0.45	13.4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.00	0.01	0.65	33.9	1.6
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	16.7	0.38	12.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.01	0.63	27.6	1.0
London Adm. County ..	17.8	0.37	13.1	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.38	0.23	—	0.00	0.61	26.4	0.7
Hexham Rural District ..	13.86	0.19	14.20	—	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.48	—	0.00	0.44	28.07	0.00

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 living	General Death Rate per 1,000 living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 living
1926	14.1	12.5	76.4
1927	14.4	10.3	37.9
1928	14.7	10.9	55.1
1929	13.2	11.6	50.1
1930	13.2	11.8	63.3
1931	12.7	12.7	94.3
1932	13.5	12.3	53.3
1933	12.3	12.3	26.9
1934	10.6	12.2	67.5
1935	13.9	12.1	52.8
1936	13.2	13.4	66.9
1937	13.2	13.9	60.6
1938	14.1	15.3	68.5
1939	10,7	12.4	79.4
1940	12.2	12.9	56.1
1941	12.0	12.3	42.2
1942	14.4	12.6	21.1
1943	13.7	13.7	37.2
1944	15.4	12.8	44.0
1945	13.2	13.1	31.1
1946	18.1	13.1	46.9
1947	17.4	14.4	34.2
1948	16.0	12.6	18.0
1949	14.3	12.4	23.4
1950	14.8	13.4	29.0
1951	13.86	14.20	28.07

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1951

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District														Total Cases notified in each Sub-District		
	At all Ages	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Age unknown	Allendale	Bywell	Hexham
Scarlet Fever ..	14	—	—	2	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	9
Whooping Cough ..	45	4	3	8	7	9	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	18	15
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	220	5	12	18	21	31	107	17	6	3	—	—	—	—	7	100	113
Pneumonia	32	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	3	4	9	6	11	9	12
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	320	13	16	29	30	41	135	20	6	4	5	5	9	7	32	133	155
															320		

TUBERCULOSIS.—New case and Mortality during 1951 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	4	4	—	2	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1927-1951.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Cerebrospinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis.	Acute Polio-encephalitis.	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Smallpox.	Paratyphoid Fevers.	Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas.	Food Poisoning.
1927	49	—	9	—	19	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	2	—	5	9	—
1928	14	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	1	2	4	1	—	—	9	—
1929	18	—	6	—	39	—	1	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	19	—
1930	17	—	10	—	20	1	—	—	—	6	1	6	—	—	3	14	—
1931	29	—	9	—	24	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	—	3	8	—
1932	18	—	14	—	29	—	1	—	1	2	1	6	1	—	—	9	—
1933	26	—	1	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	4	—
1934	126	—	10	—	19	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	8	—
1935	72	—	16	—	17	—	1	—	—	3	3	4	—	—	1	13	—
1936	107	—	48	—	26	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	4	—
1937	32	—	4	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	6	—
1938	53	—	13	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	4	—
1939	62	7	28	7	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	8	—
1940	17	11	16	170	14	8	1	—	—	—	8	11	—	—	1	2	—
1941	11	59	13	91	16	3	—	—	—	1	9	17	—	—	7	7	—
1942	13	1	7	65	11	3	—	—	—	12	8	13	—	—	—	3	—
1943	23	24	4	114	20	1	—	—	—	7	10	18	—	—	—	6	—
1944	29	28	3	32	5	—	—	—	—	—	15	17	—	—	—	5	—
1945	36	18	8	23	8	—	—	—	—	5	—	8	—	—	—	5	—
1946	21	45	6	81	15	1	3	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	2	—
1947	4	33	6	208	8	—	8	—	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
1948	29	56	1	81	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	4	—
1949	18	22	—	146	12	—	4	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	6	10
1950	31	99	—	255	26	—	2	—	—	1	—	10	—	—	—	6	1
1951	14	45	—	220	32	3	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—

CASES OF MEASLES DURING 1951.

District.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Allendale	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Carrshield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Catton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Haydon Bridge ..	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Langley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ninebanks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blanchland	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Ovingham	—	—	—	—	4	10	9	29	—	—	—	—	52
Riding Mill	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
Shotley Bridge ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Stocksfield	—	—	—	1	10	10	—	7	1	—	1	5	35
Wylam	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	7
Whittonstall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acomb	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Barrasford	—	—	5	19	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Birtley	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
Colwell	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Corbridge	—	—	—	11	31	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	46
Fourstones ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gunnerton	—	—	—	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Hallington	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hexhamshire ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Humshaugh ..	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Simonburn ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Slaley	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Wall	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wark	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4
Whittington	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	—	2	8	52	66	24	12	41	4	2	2	7	220

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS. YEAR, 1951.

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS RETURNED TO R.G.

1st Qrtr.	2nd Qrtr.	3rd Qrtr.	4th Qrtr.	Total.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS	Nil
OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE	Nil
SINGLE CASES :—	
Agent identified	Nil
Unknown cause	Nil
Total ..	Nil

PART II.—HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

(1) HOSPITALS.

There are in the district five hospitals under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These comprise the Charlotte Straker Hospital and the Bridge End Maternity Hospitals at Corbridge, the Dilston Maternity Hospital, Barrasford Sanatorium and Wooley Sanatorium. These hospitals together with the Hexham General Hospital, the Hexham War Memorial Hospital and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(2) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. Ambulance Stations are situated at Corbridge and at Hexham.

(3) HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to households where such help is required owing to illness or confinement, and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee, Prospect House, Hexham.

(4) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held by the Northumberland County Council in the district :—

Child Welfare Clinics.

Allendale	Dr. Clayburn's Surgery. Second Monday in month, 1-30—4 p.m.
Corbridge	Parish Hall, Princes Street. Alternate Tuesdays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon. 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Haydon Bridge ..	Church Hall. Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon. 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Humshaugh ..	Village Hall. Every fourth Thursday, 1-30—4 p.m.
Riding Mill	Parish Hall. Alternate Thursdays, 1-30—4 p.m.
Stocksfield	Red Cross Hut. Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon. 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Allendale	Dr. Clayburn's Surgery. Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30—4 p.m.
Stocksfield	Red Cross Hut. Every fourth Tuesday, 1-30—4 p.m.

(5) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE.

These services are now administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this area are combined. There are nine Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Rural District.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR,

by RONALD C. HESLOP, A.R.San.I.

PART III.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Acomb Parish.

The village of Acomb is supplied by the Council, the quality of the water being satisfactory. The quantity available is sufficient in winter, but totally insufficient in dry weather, and the installation of the new scheme (Hexhamshire—Acomb) is of the greatest urgency.

To augment the supply, main's water was carted to the reservoir over a period of fourteen weeks.

Oakwood lies partly in Acomb and partly in Sandhoe parishes. The water supply is privately owned and is inadequate. Oakwood is included in the area of the new scheme for Hexhamshire—Acomb.

The Council gave assistance in the distribution of water to areas which were short during the year.

Allendale Parish.

Allendale Town and Catton are supplied by the Council. The quality of the water is satisfactory and the quantity is sufficient.

The Old Town area is very badly served and the Ministry of Health held a private enquiry in 1949 into a scheme to boost mains water to a service reservoir. Approval of the scheme has now been received.

The Council also supply Ropehaugh area of Allenheads. The quantity is sufficient, and the quality satisfactory.

Broomhaugh Parish.

The village of Broomhaugh is supplied by the Council. The quality is satisfactory and the supply is generally sufficient.

Broomley Parish.

Stocksfield and New Ridley are adequately supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

Broomley village has a private supply owned by the Northumberland County Council, which is adequate.

Chollerton Parish.

Barrasford village has a private supply which is generally sufficient.

Colwell village is supplied by the Council. There is an ample supply at the springs, but the hydraulic ram could not pump a supply sufficient for all purposes, and an electric pump has been installed in addition.

Samples taken during the year showed intermittent pollution. A chlorinator has been installed.

Gunnerton village is supplied by the Council more water is required.

Corbridge Parish.

Corbridge is supplied by the Council. There is difficulty in supplying the higher reaches.

Corbridge is included in the area of the new scheme Hexhamshire —Acomb.

The Middle spring at Holly Hall intermittently shows slight contamination and the water is being excluded in the meantime.

Hallington Parish.

The village of Hallington is served partly by a private piped supply, and partly by wells.

The piped supply is sufficient to serve all the houses in the village.

Haydon Parish.

Haydon Bridge is supplied by the Council. The quality is satisfactory and the quantity is sufficient for present needs.

Langley (Hill Top) is supplied by a well. There is no proper piped supply for these 8 houses.

Healey Parish.

Healey is served principally by wells.

Hedley Parish.

Hedley-on-the-Hill—The Council supply the village with water obtained from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., by pumping to a reservoir south of the village. The supply is generally sufficient.

Hexham Low Quarter.

Part of the parish is supplied from the Council's supply at Slaley. There is insufficient water in the dry season.

The new Hexhamshire—Acomb scheme will give an ample supply to part of this Parish and part of the Hexham Middle and High Quarter Parishes.

Horsley Parish.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. supply the village and the houses and farms surrounding it.

Humshaugh Parish.

The village of Humshaugh is supplied by the Council. The quality of the water is not altogether satisfactory. The quantity is sufficient for present needs.

Newbrough Parish.

The Council supply the village of Newbrough. The quality is satisfactory.

Settlingstones Mines cottages have a private supply which is sufficient and satisfactory.

To allow Council houses to be erected in the village, an electric pump has been installed and additional water is pumped as necessary.

The Woodbine area is supplied by the Council, but the quantity is insufficient.

Newton Parish.

The village has a private supply, but the quantity is not sufficient for future needs.

Newton Hall Parish.

The quantity of water available from the private supply is insufficient for modern sanitation.

Ovingham Parish.

Is adequately supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

Ovington Parish.

The village is adequately supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

Riding Parish.

Riding Mill is supplied by Riding Mill Estate Co., and the supply is generally sufficient.

Sandhoe Parish.

The villages of Sandhoe and Anick have private supplies which are insufficient. They are both included in the new Hexhamshire-Acomb scheme.

Oakwood—See Acomb Parish.

Shotley High Quarter.

Blanchland is supplied by the Lord Crewe Trustees and the supply is generally sufficient.

Shotley Low Quarter.

The Snods has a private supply which is generally sufficient.

Simonburn Parish.

Simonburn village has a private supply which is insufficient.

Nunwick Town Head has a private supply which is adqeuate.

Slaley Parish.

Slaley is supplied by the Council but the supply is insufficient in dry seasons. The area is included in the Hexhamshire-Acomb scheme.

Wall Parish.

Wall village is supplied by the Council. An additional supply

(formerly used by the military) was connected to the main. The quality is satisfactory and the quantity sufficient for present demands.

Warden Parish.

Hardhaugh has a private supply which is adequate.

Fourstones—The old village of Fourstones has a private supply which is adequate.

The remainder of the village is supplied by a private supply which is inadequate.

West Allen Parish.

Ninebanks and Carrshield villages are each partly supplied by private piped supplies.

Great Whittington Parish.

The village is supplied by the Council. The quality is not entirely satisfactory. The quantity is sufficient for present needs.

Four unsatisfactory samples were obtained during the year, and the water is being chlorinated.

Whittonstall Parish.

The village still depends on a well from which water is pumped by hand.

Water was carted by the Council during the drought.

Wylam Parish.

The area is adequately supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

WATER SUPPLIES : FUTURE POSITION.

The Hexhamshire—Acomb and the Allendale (Old Town) schemes have already been approved in principle by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

In June, 1951, the Council gave further consideration to the supply of water to other parts of the District and the proposals approved by the Council, together with the two schemes referred to above are as follows :—

1. Hexhamshire—Acomb Scheme.

To supply water from springs at King's Law and Moor Gair to Slaley, portions of Hexham Low and Middle Quarters and Corbridge, and to pump water from Holly Hall Springs to a reservoir at Sandhoe and supply by gravity, Sandhoe, Anick, Oakwood and Acomb.

2. Allendale (Old Town) Scheme.

To augment the supply at Allendale from springs at Loaningside Allotment and pump water from the mains at Catton to a reservoir at Catton Beacon to give a gravity supply to the Old Town area.

3. Proposals for Colwell, Barrasford, Chollerton, Humshaugh, Wall and Gunnerton.

To supply water from springs at Colwell to Barrasford, Chollerton, Humshaugh and Wall by gravity and to instal a booster pump at Barrasford to supply Gunnerton.

4. Proposal for Whittington.

To supply Whittington from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company's pipe line at Matfen.

5. Proposal for Whittonstall.

To pump a supply to Whittonstall and Newlands from the Durham County Water Board's mains at Ebchester.

6. Proposal for Whittle-Dene to Haydon Bridge.

To pump water from Newcastle and Gateshead Filter Station at Whittle Dene to a reservoir at Newton Hall, to give a gravity supply to Stelling, Newton Hall, Newton, Thornbrough, Corbridge, Sandhoe, Anick, Oakwood, Acomb, Warden, Fourstones, Newbrough, Allerwash, Brokenheugh and Haydon Bridge.

7. Proposal for Riding Mill and Broomhaugh.

To supply Riding Mill and Broomhaugh by an extension of the main from Farnley, Corbridge.

When the scheme from Whittle Dene (No. 6) is installed, the pump at Holly Hill in scheme No. 1 would not be required as it will then be possible to give a gravity feed from Newton Hall reservoir to the area supplied by that pump.

Scheme No. 7 would also be dependent on the installation of the Whittle Dene scheme and water from Hexhamshire would then be diverted to Riding Mill and Broomhaugh.

The proposals outlined above were submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. In his reply, the Minister stated that each proposal would be considered on its merits when submitted for approval.

Regular gaugings are being taken of all springs required for the above schemes.

Simonburn.

Gaugings are being taken of springs at Sharpley with a view to supplying the village from this source should the yield be adequate.

SUMMARY OF SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLIED TO HOUSES IN HEXHAM R.D.C.

PARISH.	1931 Census	1949	WATER SUPPLY							
			Council.		N/cle. and Gateshead Water Co.		Piped Private supplies.		Springs & Wells.	
	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.
Acomb	929	311	660	230	—	—	216	66	53	15
Allendale	2218	763	1157	407	—	—	476	201	585	155
Aydon	91	19	—	—	—	—	79	18	12	1
Aydon Castle	14	3	—	—	—	—	7	2	7	1
Bearle	47	9	—	—	—	—	47	9	—	—
Bingfield...	64	22	12	4	—	—	46	16	6	2
Blackcarts & Ryehill ...	11	2	—	—	—	—	11	2	—	—
Broomhaugh	230	79	198	71	—	—	28	7	4	1
Broomley	1741	595	—	—	1575	543	152	47	14	5
Bywell	161	37	—	—	—	—	161	37	—	—
Chollerton	1192	291	373	95	—	—	595	140	224	56
Clarewood	66	20	—	—	—	—	48	16	18	4
Cocklaw	143	36	—	—	—	—	117	27	26	9
Corbridge	2050	768	1743	668	—	—	220	72	87	28
Dilston	223	62	35	9	—	—	177	50	11	3
Dukeshagg	6	1	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—
Espershields	124	34	—	—	—	—	112	30	12	4
Fallowfield	28	7	—	—	—	—	20	5	8	2
Hallington	69	21	—	—	—	—	33	10	36	11
Halton	21	7	—	—	—	—	10	4	11	3
Haughton	85	23	—	—	—	—	67	17	18	6
Haydon	2050	661	1338	450	—	—	520	152	192	59
Healey	103	23	—	—	—	—	50	11	53	12
Hedley	343	58	243	42	—	—	94	16	6	—
Hexham High Qr. ...	118	39	—	—	—	—	88	29	30	10
Hexham Low Qr. ...	328	91	154	45	—	—	141	36	33	10
Hexham Middle Qr. ...	197	70	—	—	—	—	169	62	28	8
Hexham West Qr. ...	95	23	3	1	—	—	85	20	7	2
High Fotherley	62	15	—	—	—	—	62	15	—	—
Horsley	322	105	—	—	318	104	—	—	4	1
Humshaugh	394	138	283	108	—	—	107	28	4	2
Nafferton	34	11	—	—	—	—	34	11	—	—
Newbrough	656	175	200	49	—	—	394	111	62	15
Newlands	113	25	—	—	—	—	63	14	50	11
Newton	123	27	—	—	—	—	123	27	—	—
Newton Hall	127	33	—	—	—	—	127	33	—	—
Ovingham	393	122	—	—	389	106	—	14	4	2
Ovington	470	436	—	—	460	191	—	242	10	3
Portgate	83	16	—	—	—	—	80	15	3	1
Riding	398	132	—	—	—	—	398	132	—	—
Sandhoe	355	108	—	—	—	—	332	100	23	8
Shotley High Qr. ...	207	64	—	—	—	—	163	52	44	12
Shotley Low Qr. ...	427	116	—	—	—	—	344	91	83	25
Simonburn	344	95	—	—	—	—	302	83	42	12
Slaley	648	153	516	123	—	—	100	23	32	7
Spittle	6	6	—	—	—	—	6	6	—	—
Stelling	53	12	—	—	—	—	36	8	17	4
Styford	66	17	—	—	—	—	58	15	8	2
Thornbrough	56	14	—	—	—	—	52	13	4	1
Wall	305	116	193	76	—	—	81	30	31	10
Warden	748	226	—	—	—	—	700	213	48	13
Welton	44	12	—	—	—	—	36	10	8	2
West Allen	394	126	—	—	—	—	138	41	256	85
Whittington Great ...	178	54	142	42	—	—	27	9	9	3
Whittington Little ..	8	3	—	—	—	—	8	3	—	—
Whittle	22	5	—	—	22	5	—	—	—	—
Whittonstall	184	42	—	—	—	—	78	16	106	26
Wylam	1279	440	—	—	1273	438	—	—	6	2
TOTALS	21246	6919	7250	2420	4037	1387	7624	2458	2335	654

PRIVATE PIPED SUPPLIES SERVING MORE THAN 10 HOUSES.

PARISH.	No. of houses on supply.	NAME OF SYSTEM.	REMARKS.
Acomb	27	Oakwood*	Insufficient
	12	Riding	Generally sufficient
Blackcarts & Rychill ...	2	Teppermoor*	Generally sufficient
Broomley	25	Broomley Village ...	Sufficient
Bywell...	12	Bywell Hall	Sufficient
Chollerton	17	Tone Hall (Chipchase) ...	Sufficient
	10	Great Swinburne ...	Sufficient
	12	Barrasford Quarry ...	Sufficient
	37	Barrasford Village ...	Sufficient
Corbridge	4	Stagshaw*	Sufficient
Dilston	30	Dilston Hall	Sufficient
Espershields	19	Minster Acres*	Sufficient
Haughton	15	Haughton Castle ...	Sufficient
Hexhamshire High Qr. ...	12	Kings Law*	Distribution poor
Hexhamshire Middle Qr. ...	33	Kings Law*	,, ,,
Humshaugh	19	Plane Trees & Chesters	Sufficient
	1	Teppermoor*	Sufficient
Newbrough	24	Settlingstones	Sufficient
	15	Carr Edge	Sufficient
	23	Butt Bank*	Insufficient
	17	Allerwash	Sufficient
	10	Wharmley	Sufficient
Newton	20	Newton Village	Insufficient
Newton Hall	24	Newton Hall	Sufficient
Riding Mill	100	Riding Estate	Sufficient
Sandhoe	23	Anick	Insufficient
	16	Sandhoe	Insufficient
	9	Oakwood*	Insufficient
	7	Stagshaw*	Sufficient
Shotley High Qr.	40	Blanchland	Sufficient
Shotley Low Qr.	14	Shotley Field	Sufficient
	5	Minsteracres*	Sufficient
Simonburn	21	Simonburn	Insufficient
	15	Nunwick	Sufficient
	3	Teppermoor*	Sufficient
Slaley	11	Trygill	Sufficient
	10	Slaley Hall	Sufficient
Warden	96	Fourstones	Insufficient
	17	Teppermoor*	Sufficient
	16	Warden Hill	Sufficient
	16	Warden Paper Mill ...	Sufficient
	12	High Warden	Sufficient
	9	Butt Bank*	Insufficient

Supplies included above marked * feed houses in more than one parish, and are summarised below :—

	Houses
Oakwood supply feeds 27 houses in Acomb Parish and 9 in Sandhoe Parish	36
Teppermoor supply feeds 2 houses in Blackcarts, 1 in Humshaugh, 3 in Simonburn and 17 in Warden	23
Stagshaw supply feeds 4 houses in Corbridge and 7 in Sandhoe	11
Minsteracres supply feeds 19 houses in Espershields and 5 in Shotley Low Quarter	24
King's Law supply feeds 12 houses in Hexham High Quarter and 33 in Hexham Middle Quarter	45
Butt Bank supply feeds 23 houses in Newbrough and 9 in Warden	32

PRIVATE SUPPLY (not piped) SERVING MORE THAN 10 HOUSES.

Whittonstall. 24 houses in the village are supplied from a pump, and the supply is totally inadequate.

All other private supplies in the district, not referred to above, serve less than 10 houses.

SUMMARY OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

COUNCIL SUPPLIES.

No.	Supply.	No. of Samples		No. Satisfactory		No. Unsatisf't'y		Total Samples taken
		Bact.	Chemical.	Bact.	Chemical.	Bact.	Chemical.	
1.	Acomb	4	—	3	—	1	—	4
2.	Allendale ..	6	2	6	2	—	—	8
3.	Ropehaugh ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
4.	Broomhaugh ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
5.	Colwell	9	—	7	—	1	—	8
6.	Corbridge ..	24	—	22	—	2	—	24
7.	Gunnerton ..	6	—	5	—	1	—	6
8.	Haydon Bridge..	6	—	6	—	—	—	6
9.	Hedley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Humshaugh ..	18	—	6	—	12	—	18
11.	Newbrough ..	7	—	7	—	—	—	7
12.	Woodbine ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
13.	Slaley	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
14.	Wall	7	—	5	—	2	—	7
15.	Whittington ..	6	—	2	—	4	—	6
16.	Bingfield ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		100	2	77	2	23	—	102

Acomb, Corbridge, Gunnerton and Wall.

Isolated samples from these supplies have fallen below the satisfactory standard but subsequent samples have indicated that the slight contamination did not persist.

Colwell.

Chlorination is being maintained. All samples taken after treatment have been satisfactory.

Humshaugh and Whittington.

Chlorinators have been installed on both these supplies and are being maintained until the springs are clear.

At Humshaugh after the first unsatisfactory result was obtained in January, a batch of three samples was taken from collecting chambers and further investigations made, the water meanwhile being chlorinated. A sample taken in February showed the pollution to have decreased and by the beginning of March it had disappeared entirely. Until October 18th the samples proved satisfactory and then the pollution showed again. The chlorination was resumed and further investigation proceeds.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Supply.	No. of Samples		No. Satisfactory		No. Unsatisf't'y		Total Samples taken
	Bact.	Chemical.	Bact.	Chemical.	Bact.	Chemical.	
Barrasford	3	—	3	—	—	—	3
Blanchland	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Fourstones	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Oakwood	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Newton	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Riding Mill	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Anick	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Sandhoe	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Teppermoor ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Netherwarden ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Fankham	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Keenley, Allendale ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cote House, Blanchland	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Black Hall Mill ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Beaufront Hill Head	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Todridge	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Oaklands, Hexham ..	3	—	1	—	2	—	3
Farnley Hill, Corbridge ..	2	—	1	—	1	—	2
West Nubbock ..	1	1	1	1	—	—	2
	25	1	20	1	5	—	26

Oaklands.

This supply has been discontinued for drinking purposes, a connection having been made to the Oakwood supply.

Farnley Hill, Corbridge.

The water is not normally used, being an emergency supply only. The owner has been advised against the use of the supply.

Newton.

An investigation was made and the source of contamination found.

PROPOSED SUPPLIES.

Source.	No. of Samples		No. Satisfactory		No. Unsatisf't'y		Total Samples taken
	Bact.	Chemical.	Bact.	Chemical.	Bact.	Chemical.	
Loaningside, Allendale	4	1	4	1	—	—	5
Hazeldean, Stagshaw, Corbridge ..	2	1	1	1	1	—	3
Farnley Gate, Corbridge ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Keepwick Fell ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
The Crags, Wall ..	8	1	1	—	7	1	9
Newbiggin House, Ordley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Loadman, Hexhamshire	4	—	4	—	—	—	4
Simonburn	4	—	4	—	—	—	4
Laker Hall, Welton ..	1	1	1	1	—	—	2
	27	4	18	3	9	1	31

Keepwick Fell and The Craggs, Wall.

In view of the unsatisfactory results, these proposals have been abandoned.

Hazeldean.

A further sample submitted for a full examination indicated that the slight contamination was due to the spring not being protected.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Acomb Parish.

The village of Acomb is adequately sewered and the works consist of settling tanks and bacteria beds with rotary sprinklers.

Oakwood is sewered and the sewerage system also serves Anick (Sandhoe Parish). The works consist of a settling tank and bacteria bed.

Allendale Parish.

Allendale Town and Catton Village (except Wentworth Terrace) are sewered to a works near Catton. The works consist of settling tanks, bacteria beds with rotary sprinklers and land treatment.

The main sewer between Allendale Town and the works is inadequate.

Wentworth Terrace is sewered to a small settling tank and bacteria bed.

Allenheads and Ropehaugh—There are no public sewers. A portion of Allenheads village is sewered to a septic tank. Many of the other drains deliver into the River East Allen. A scheme is required.

Broomhaugh and Riding Parishes.

There is an adequate system of sewers and a sewage works (settling tanks and bacteria beds). The whole of the sewage is pumped.

Broomley Parish.

Broomley village is sewered to a works consisting of settling tanks and bacteria beds.

Stocksfield and New Ridley are sewered to a works consisting of settling tanks and bacteria beds. This works requires extension.

Chollerton.

Barrasford village is sewered to a works (settling tanks and bacteria beds).

Colwell village—A small portion is sewered to a settling tank. A scheme is required.

Gunnerton village is sewered to a works consisting of settling tanks and bacteria beds.

Corbridge Parish.

Most of Corbridge is sewered. The drainage from the remainder of the houses either goes into the River Tyne or into cesspools.

There is a small works (tanks and bacteria beds) dealing with the sewage at Farnley, but the bulk of the sewage goes into the River Tyne untreated.

A scheme is required.

Hallington Parish.

The village of Hallington is provided with a sewer leading to a settling tank.

Haydon Parish.

Haydon Bridge is mostly sewered, but Brigwood Bungalows have soakaways on the river bank, and Chesterwood sewage goes into a ditch. The bulk of the sewage goes direct into the South Tyne.

A scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Health, the requisite land purchased, but permission to commence the work has not yet been received.

Langley Hill Head and Sawmill Cottages have no proper sewers or works.

Haughton Parish.

The drainage from Haughton Castle district goes to a works (settling tanks and filters) near the old papermill.

Hedley Parish.

The village is sewered to a works consisting of settling tanks and bacteria beds.

Hexham Low Quarter.

Juniper is sewered to a works (settling tank and bacteria bed).

Horsley Parish.

Horsley village is sewered. A works is provided but this requires renovation.

Humshaugh Parish.

Humshaugh village has an old system of sewers discharging into a stone conduit, thence to the North Tyne.

A scheme is required.

Newbrough Parish.

Newbrough village is sewered, but there is no treatment. Settlingstones is sewered to a septic tank which is now inadequate.

Newton Parish.

Sewers are provided in the village but they discharge into a stream.

Newton Hall Parish.

Sewers are provided in the village, but there is no treatment.

Ovingham Parish.

The village is sewered and there are two separate works.

Ovington Parish.

The village is sewered, but there is no treatment of the sewage which goes into an open runner leading to the River Tyne. A scheme is required.

Riding Parish.

See Broomhaugh Parish.

Sandhoe Parish.

Sandhoe Village—There are drains and a private sewer.

Anick village and Oakwood are sewered to a works consisting of settling tanks and bacteria bed.

Shotley High Quarter Parish.

Blanchland—There is no piped sewerage system, but the sewage, carried by piped drains and small enclosed conduits, causes no nuisance. There is a constant flow of water through the system.

Shotley Low Quarter Parish.

The Snods—There is no proper sewerage system.

Simonburn Parish.

Simonburn village has no proper sewerage system.

Slaley Parish.

The village is sewered to a works consisting of settling tanks and bacteria beds.

Wall Parish.

The village is sewered to a works consisting of settling tanks and bacteria beds.

Warden Parish.

Hardhaugh Cottages have a sewer which delivers into the South Tyne.

Fourstones village—The new houses and part of the old village are sewered to a septic tank. The rest of the village has no proper sewerage system. A scheme is required.

West Allen Parish.

Carrshield and Ninebanks villages—No proper sewerage systems exist.

Great Whittington Parish.

There are sewers leading to settling tanks.

Whittonstall Parish.

No proper sewerage system.

Wylam Parish.

North and South Wylam are principally served by piped sewers but the sewage is discharged untreated into the River Tyne.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Almost all the houses in the following places have water closets :—

Allendale	Anick	Broomhaugh
Corbridge	Oakwood	Ovingham
Riding Mill	Settlingstones	Stocksfield
Wall	Wylam	

The greater part of the houses in the following places have water closets :—

Acomb	Blanchland	Haydon Bridge
Healey	Humshaugh	Juniper
Newbrough	Sandhoe	Slaley
Catton	Whittington	

In the following places the greater part of the houses have privies or pail closets :—

Allenheads	Barrasford	Carrshield
Colwell	Fourstones	Gunnerton
Hallington	Hedley	Horsley
Newton	Newton Hall	Ninebanks
Ovington	Simonburn	

Privy Conversions. During the year privy conversion schemes were prepared for Wall, Wylam, Allendale, Catton and Humshaugh. In the two former villages, the schemes have been completed and in the remainder, tenders have been accepted by the Council, but the work has not yet begun.

It is proposed to proceed with schemes for Haydon Bridge, Broomhaugh, Newbrough, Ovingham and Whittington in 1952.

REMOVAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE.

Details of the arrangements for the removal of household refuse in the district are summarised below :—

Collection by Council's Wagons.

		Houses			Houses
Oakwood ..	(weekly)	45	Riding Mill ..	(weekly)	119
Anick		16	Broomhaugh		57
Wall		80	Slaley		73
Humshaugh		90	Sandhoe & Stagshaw ..		57
Corbridge		736	Stocksfield		542
Wylam		446	Juniper (fortnightly) ..		51
Walwick & Lincoln Hill ..		36			

Total—2,348 houses.

Collection by Contractors on behalf of the Council.

		Houses			Houses
Acomb ..	(weekly)	220	Hedley ..	(weekly)	39
Allendale & Catton ..		343	Horsley		80
Haydon Bridge		410	Ovingham		199
Part Warden		57	Ovington		131
Fourstones & Part Newbrough		207	Part Newbrough (fortnightly)		56

Total—1,742 houses.

Total Number of houses in District	6,919
Total Number of houses scavenged	4,090
Percentage of houses scavenged by direct labour	34%
Percentage of houses scavenged by contract	25%
Total percentage of houses scavenged	59%

There is no public service in the following places ; the occupants make private arrangements for removal :—

Allenheads	Newton
Broomley Village	Newton Hall
Barrasford	Blanchland
Colwell	Simonburn
Gunnerton	Whittington
Hallington	Whittonstall
Healey	Carrshield
Langley	Ninebanks

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year the inspection of the district by the Council's Pest Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Act has proceeded. Agricultural properties, domestic and business premises and the Council's refuse tips and sewage works have been inspected and serviced. In addition a 10% test baiting of sewers throughout the area has been effected. Where practicable, block control schemes have been carried out, several in conjunction with the Northumberland Agricultural Executive Committee.

Copies of the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, were circulated to all threshing contractors who operate in the district.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Agricultural Premises.

No of. Inspections.	Major Infestations.	Minor Infestations.	Clear.
351	83	136	132

Domestic and Other Properties.

No. of Inspections.	Major Infestation.	Minor Infestations.	Clear.
170	15	78	77

162 dead rats were picked up.

L.A. Properties.

During the year 23 refuse tips and 3 sewage works were serviced. 581 dead rats were picked up.

Sewers.

10% test baiting of sewers was carried out at :—

Acomb, Anick, Haydon Bridge, Fourstones, Newbrough, Catton, Allendale, Hallington, Colwell, Gunnerton, Barrasford, Humshaugh, Wall, Ovingham, Horsley, Hedley, Stocksfield, Riding Mill, Slaley, Hexham Low Quarter.

Of a total of 654 manholes, 94 were baited. Partial takes were found at 8 manholes.

These results show the infestation of sewers in the district to be of a very minor character.

Block Treatments.

Block control schemes were carried out at :—

Blanchland, Gunnerton, Acomb, Anick, Haydon Bridge, Hexhamshire, Allendale, Sparty Lea, Barrasford, Humshaugh, Fourstones and Slaley.

PART IV.—HOUSING.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING YEAR 1951.

			With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(*a*)	By Local Authority		38	—	38
	Stocksfield	18			
	Wylam	12			
	Haydon Bridge	8			
(*b*)	By other bodies or persons		—	5	5

HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

			With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(*a*)	By Local Authority		52	—	52
	Haydon Bridge	10			
	Acomb	28			
	Ovingham	14			
(*b*)	By other bodies or persons		—	9	9

Contracts for 10 houses at Newbrough and 8 houses at Allendale have been entered into, but construction has not yet begun.

SUMMARY OF POST-WAR BUILDING.

		No. of Houses.	No. of Persons Houses.
(*a*)	By Council :—		
	Acomb	16	82
	Allendale	12	61
	Corbridge	48	213
	Fourstones	16	83
	Gunnerton	6	30
	Haydon Bridge	36	185
	Horsley	4	19
	Humshaugh	6	29
	Ovingham	10	49
	Slaley	12	46
	Stocksfield	22	95
	Wall	8	36
	Wylam	36	155
		232	1,083
(*b*)	By private persons	46	
		278	

(*c*) 41 additional units of accommodation have been provided by the granting of building licences for the conversion and adaptation of existing buildings.

Housing Survey.

This survey is still in progress.

Moveable Dwellings.

During the year 795 inspections were made and the record of the survey carried out in 1948 brought up to date.

PART V.—SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—FOOD INSPECTION.

Food.	Surrendered.	Seized.	Legal proceedings.
Tinned Ham	94 lbs.	—	—
Butter	1 lb.	—	—
Other tinned Meats ..	48 lbs.	—	—
Other tinned Foods ..	91 lbs.	—	—

2.—MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughtering continues to be centralised and takes place at the Abattoir, at Hexham.

The inspection of meat and other foods exposed for sale is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

3.—MILK.

Sample taken for	Samples taken from retailers.		
	No. taken.	No. satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.
Methylene Blue Test	11	10	1
Tuberculosis	10	10	—
Brucellus Abortus	2	2	—

Two samples of goats milk were taken following a suspected case of Undulant Fever. Both samples were negative.

4.—ICE-CREAM.

Type of Sample.	Number taken.	Grading.			
		1	2	3	4
Pre-packed	18	2	5	8	3
Loose	4	—	1	2	1

34 premises are registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream.

Bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Copies of the Bye-laws have been issued to the occupiers of all food premises in the area.

Some of the premises have been visited and advice and instruction given.

A full survey will be carried out in 1952.

PART VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS.

Water Supplies	109
Water Supplies (Sampling)	202
Water Supplies (Chlorination)	98
Housing	151
Drainage	136
Testing of Drains	152
Privy Conversions	898
Nuisances	166
Council Houses (Allocation)	720
Council Houses (Maintenance)	315
Disinfection	7
Infectious Diseases	47
Food Premises	24
Food Inspection	22
Meat Inspection	22
Ice-cream premises	17
Ice-cream sampling	31
Milk sampling	20
Factories	26
Moveable Dwellings	795
Scavenging	313
Disinfestation	6
Sanitary Conveniences at Hotels, etc.	11
Building Inspection	16
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	7
Surveying and Levelling	13
Licensing	39
Keeping of Animals	5
Miscellaneous	109
	4,477

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Roofs repaired	5
Walls repointed or repaired	3
Eaves, gutters and spouts repaired	13
Chimneys repaired	7
New windows provided	21
Ceilings renewed or repaired	10
Walls replastered	13
Floors repaired	8
Cooking ranges renewed	23
Hot Water Systems installed	40
Baths installed	53
Bathrooms provided	41
Lavatory basins provided	48
New sculleries provided	13
New sinks provided	35
Foodstores provided	5
Fuel stores provided	1
W.C's. repaired or renewed	4
Privies converted to W.C's.	60
Additional W.C's. provided	34
Yards repaired	1
New drainage system provided	20
Drainage system reconstructed	11
Inspection chambers provided	94
Choked drains cleared	9
Septic tanks and filters provided	22
Water laid into houses	15
New water supplies provided	19
Ashpits abolished	14
Dustbins provided	20

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Number of Factories on Register	83
Number of visits made	26
Number of defects found	6

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